

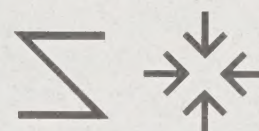
# BlissWorld



**An information resource for Blissymbol users,  
friends & families of users, those who have used  
Blissymbols in the past, and all those who are  
interested in Blissymbols.**

Spring 1992

## Bliss Forum



Welcome to **Bliss Forum**.

This section is intended to be a forum for communication among Bliss users, their families and their caregivers. Here is a place where the Bliss family can come together to share ideas about combined symbols you have tried, about the new areas where you think Bliss should be developing vocabulary, as well as about general issues of system development that you want to discuss.

We know Bliss has been a living language for you. We would like to know more about how you use Bliss in your world and what you would like to see happen with Bliss in the future. Together we can help Bliss to continue to be a *living language*, responsive to a rapidly changing and diverse world. We hope this section will become the fertile soil where this life can take root and flourish.

In order to be more responsive to the needs and practices of the Bliss community,

BCI will be naming System Contributing Editors from among those members of the International Panel who have expressed interest in a particular topic — such as computer terms, grammar, daily living terms, religious terms, symbols for specific age groups, etc. These System Editors will coordinate your vocabulary suggestions within that topic area and present these suggestions in **Bliss Forum**.

Our new *Blissymbol Reference Guide* will soon be available. It is a rich base upon which to build. However, there are many avenues branching out in front of us. Should our next focus be upon enlarging the preschool vocabulary? Are computer terms needed? Should we be working on the symbols required for spirituality? Tell us what is important to you.

We encourage readers to contribute their favourite combined symbols so we can all

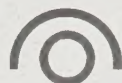
### IN THIS ISSUE . . . .

<b>Bliss Forum</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Editorial</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Survey Results</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Person to Person</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>What's New</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Correspondence</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Ideas for New Blissymbols</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Tips for Teaching</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Bliss Games</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Questionnaire/ Worksheets/ BlissCamp</b>	<b>Insert</b>

Continued on page 10.



# Editorial



It's been over twenty years since Blissymbols were first used in a special grade one class at the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre (now known as the Hugh MacMillan Rehabilitation Centre). In that time, many hundreds of people have had their lives profoundly enriched by this system of communication. We like to think of all of these people as making up our Blissymbol family.


Blissymbolics Communication International (BCI) has interacted with affiliates around the world and BCI publications have been translated into more than fifteen languages. Many new symbols have been added to the system of Blissymbolics through the efforts of an International Panel and a Symbol Committee whose work was coordinated by Claudia Wood from 1983 - 1991. There are now over 2,400 symbols representing approximately 4,500 words. Exciting new opportunities for increasing the potential usefulness of Blissymbols are emerging based on the development of affordable, user-friendly personal computer technology. This gives you an indication of the scope of our Bliss world.

Recent difficult financial times have made it necessary for BCI to downsize. In spite of this, we still have *big* ideas. The wholehearted support of our Board of Directors and our many volunteers has allowed us to continue to pursue many of our goals. But now we need help from **you**, our Bliss family. With your involvement, *BlissWorld* will become an important vehicle for achieving that help.

Through *BlissWorld*, our new Blissymbol newsletter, we will endeavour to keep our Bliss family informed of our activities and our plans for the future. Even more importantly, we look forward to *BlissWorld* being used by our readers to keep in touch with BCI and with each other. ***We want to hear from you!***

As many of you are aware, during the summer of 1991, BCI asked Bliss users in the province of Ontario to respond to a survey sent to them. Those who did are now on our mailing list and will continue to receive *BlissWorld* and other information from BCI. Preliminary results of the survey are presented on page 3.

We hope you enjoy this first issue of *BlissWorld* and we look forward to hearing from you!

Katherine Seybold, Ed. 



We want to know which Blissymbols you feel are needed and we'd like to see any of your Blissymbol suggestions (Bliss Forum, page 1). We're interested in what you think about our new products, or what products you think we should have (What's New, page 6). We'd like to include the dates and descriptions of any Bliss workshops, conferences or meetings that you're having (Meetings, Conferences & Workshops, page 6). Most importantly, we want to hear your stories — real or fiction, in Blissymbols or another language, rhyme or prose (Person to Person, page 4).

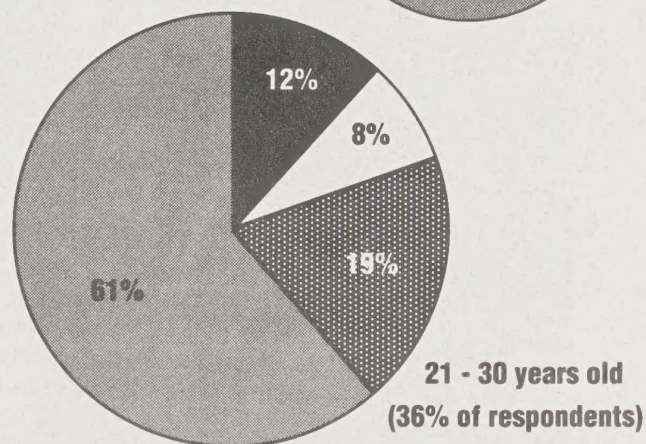
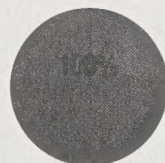
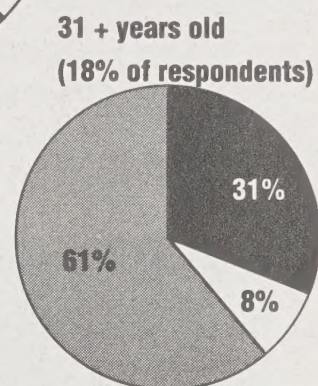
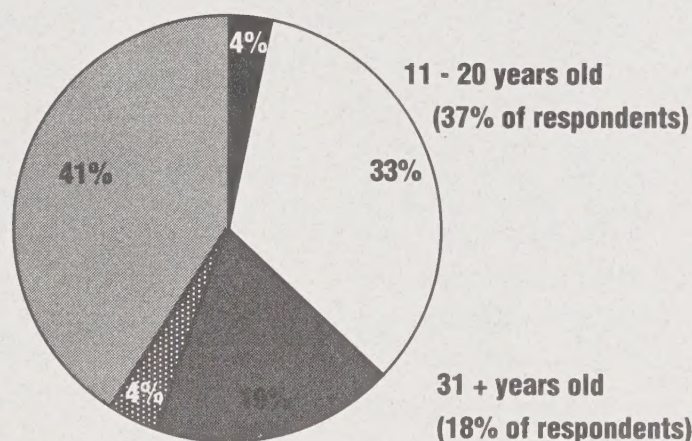
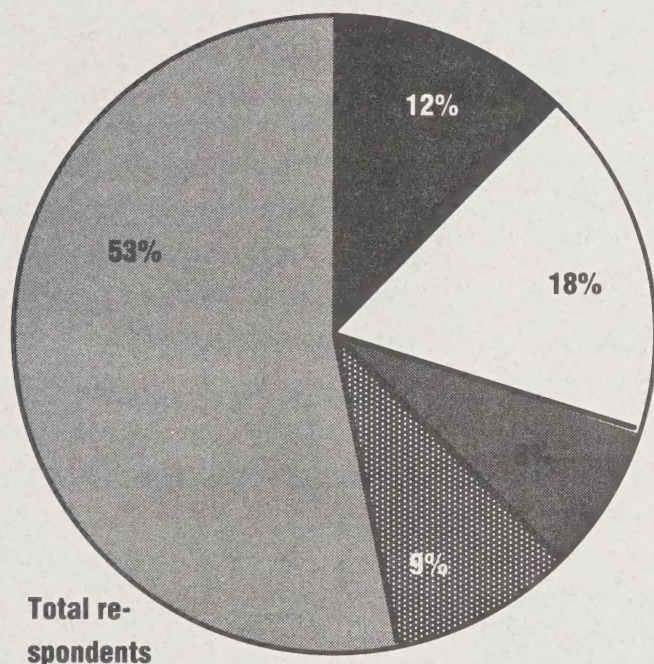
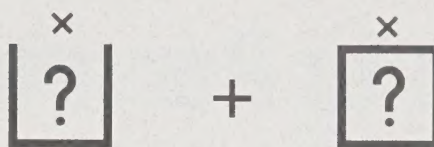
# BlissWorld

Published by Blissymbolics Communication International (BCI)  
250 Ferrand Drive, Suite 200, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M3C 3P2  
Telephone: 416•421•8377 Fax: 416•696•1035  
Katherine Seybold, Editor

Send all inquiries, letters and submissions to the address above.  
Printed in Canada. This material is not copyrighted, so feel free to copy and distribute anything you find of interest.



# Survey Results



- No response
- Used Bliss for less than 10 years, but no longer using.
- Used Bliss for less than 10 years, and still using.
- Used Bliss for more than 10 years, but no longer using.
- Used Bliss for more than 10 years, and still using.

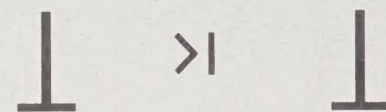
As a result of special funding received from the Bradshaw Foundation in June 1991, BCI sent out its first user registry survey to known Bliss users in Ontario. The responses have been coming in steadily over the last few months and we are starting to get a picture of the people who live in our Bliss world. Over half the questionnaires have been returned, but there is still time for Blissymbol users in Ontario to register and be counted.

The information we have collected so far is, of course, preliminary and we are only beginning the analysis. Even so, it leads to the consideration of some interesting issues. For example, the data shown above indicates the largest number of respondents we have tabulated so far in all age categories have been using Bliss for more than ten years and are continuing to use it. We look forward to exploring the reasons for this. We want to determine their implications for future vocabulary development, instructor training and support materials.

In future issues, *BlissWorld* will provide further information on this initial survey as well as results of follow up studies. If you can think of some important questions that should be pursued, please indicate them on the attached questionnaire.



# Person to Person



## REFLECTIONS

by Shirley McNaughton



**Barry Romich, Sharon Romich and Bruce Baker, present Shirley McNaughton with a plaque in recognition of her work in developing Blissymbol Component-Minspeak-Words Strategy (BMW), April 14, 1991, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, US.**

To celebrate BMW's completion, Bruce Baker, President of Semantic Compaction Systems (SCS) and the creator of Minspeak™ and Words Strategy™, along with Barry Romich, Chief Executive Officer, and Sharon Romich, President, of Prentke Romich Company (PRC), hosted a reception in the Founder's Room of The Carnegie Museum in Pittsburg. The evening was a memorable way of recognizing the five years of work that were needed to develop BMW and the support that has been given to the project by SCS and PRC.

Of the several projects on which I've been working since I retired from administrative work at BCI, **Blissymbol Component-Minspeak-Words Strategy (BMW)™** has been one of the most satisfying. It offers Bliss users a way of accessing a wide vocabulary through the TouchTalker™ and LightTalker™, voice output devices produced by Prentke Romich Co. (PRC). BMW will be available from PRC early in 1992.

Another activity that I have enjoyed this past year has been Blissymbol training. I recently presented several workshops hosted by BCI entitled "Bliss in a Day". Those who attended learned about Bliss and a lot of other things! As always in our Bliss world, participants came from widely differing backgrounds. A recent "Bliss in a Day" was attended by an interesting cross section of professionals — there were two speech pathologists, one teacher, one teaching assistant, two residential counsellors and one linguistics student. The small groups enabled everyone to appreciate each person's learning needs.



At the end of the day I asked the workshop participants some questions. Their answers are well worth sharing:

***How would you describe***

***Blissymbolics to someone who knows nothing of the system?***

- "It is a system of communicating ideas through pictures which are logical (once the system and rules are understood) and by which novel ideas can be represented by the user."
- "It is a way of communicating using a system of graphics, or symbols, that has a great deal of expressive power (by being 'compacted') and involves an important learning challenge insofar as a language structure, and a transferable 'language logic' is potentially transmitted."
- "It is a means of expressing and developing ideas in the form of a language through symbols/graphics. These graphics conform to systematic rules which encourage cognitive/language and social development. It has potential for creativity."

***How successful do you feel***

***'Bliss in a Day' has been in giving you an understanding of the system of Blissymbolics?***

- "This has been a wonderful day of reaffirming prior knowledge, gaining new knowledge, sorting through my misconceptions, developing a sense of excitement for the system and using it to help those that I may influence."

- "Absolutely fantastic!

Although there is a lot of information to take in at once, it gives a starting pointing for someone with *no* knowledge. I

can now

understand

that this is a language with structure — it is not a bunch of symbols drawn up. It is something consistent."

- "I feel I can go back to the classroom and give the student more

choices on

what is said or

done with her program

throughout the day, that we can better use the system together and that we can both learn."


"I feel I can go back to the classroom and give the student more choices on what is said or done with her program throughout the day, that we can better use the system together and that we can both learn."


— a participant


***Some general comments:***

- "I found the day to be a wonderful introduction to Blissymbolics. What a world to explore!"
- "A lot of other issues of practicality came up — time to work with the child, time to teach family members, socialization of Bliss users with peers, etc. This gives me a new perspective."
- "I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop as it reinforced concepts I have studied recently in Cognitive Psychology and Language Development."


***The participants' favourite symbols!***


 *clothing*: "I like the meaning of 'clothing': cloth that protects, combining fibre and protection."

 *afraid*: "The meaning I grasp from this is — You're feeling down, but are not sure why. I have often asked myself in time of fear, 'Why are we afraid?' 'Is there really a reason?'"

 *question*: "The student I work with has not had an opportunity to have her own say in what she wishes to talk about. Up until now, the assistant or teacher always chose what she could do and she had no way of questioning it."

Now she will have some say."

 *woman*: "I find the creation aspect particularly interesting as it can be broken down further into action + earth."

As the instructor, I had tried to use the single day of training as a beginning or an update to the learning of Bliss for those who attended. I wanted to present Blissymbolics in a way that supported an understanding of the system's strengths, while emphasizing that there was still lots more to be learned. The comments assured me that my goal had been achieved! I can hardly wait for the next 'Bliss in a Day' workshop on April 23, 1992. 



## HyperBliss

**HyperBliss** (© 1990 Ami Shalit) is a powerful and personalized communication program for the Macintosh computer. Blissymbol users can access any currently approved Blissymbol by its component parts. HyperBliss "learns" the Bliss communication patterns of the user and then offers a prioritized list of potential Blissymbols.

### Useful features include:

- an automatic scanning mechanism facilitates one-switch selection preference.
- users choose from their own customized and prioritized list of symbols.
- any word can be reassigned to the chosen Blissymbol with audio output.
- desktop facilities allow printing of symbol charts and Bliss dictionaries.
- a teaching aid prepares users for proficient use.
- a sophisticated symbol library is maintained.

### Hardware Requirements:

- Any Apple® Macintosh™ computer  
(with at least 1 Mb. RAM and a hard disk).

### Software Requirements

- Speech, Macintalk™.
- HyperCard™, version 1.25 or later.
- System software 6.0.7. (HyperBliss is not yet System 7.0 compatible).
- AccessBliss, version 1.3 or later  
— available from BCI for \$250 Cdn.

**HyperBliss is available from BCI for \$100.00 Cdn** ☼

## Meetings, conferences & workshops

"Bliss in a Day" Workshop, Toronto, Ontario, Canada . . . . . April 23, 1992

Bliss Workshop, Orlando, Florida, USA . . . . . May 8 - 9, 1992

ISAAC Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA . . . . . August 7 - 11, 1992

Bliss Affiliate Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA . . . . . August 13 - 15, 1992

**Please tell us about Bliss events happening in your area, so that we can keep this listing current.** ☼

## Blissymbol Reference Guide

Compiled and edited by Claudia Wood, Jinny Storr and Peter A. Reich. A new and comprehensive guide containing over 2,400 Blissymbols — including over 900 new Blissymbols! The guide is divided into three major sections allowing the user to retrieve symbols easily, in three ways — 1) by an alphabetical list of English words accompanying the symbols, 2) by topic, such as human beings, feelings, or recreation, 3) by graphic Blissymbol shapes.

### The book includes:

- a complete explanation of each Blissymbol.
- an expanded list of word synonyms.
- notes explaining important features of the system of Blissymbolics.

**The Blissymbol Reference Guide is available from BCI for \$65.00 Cdn.** ☼

# What?

# ?

## Bliss

May 9 -  
Orlando

Find out about  
Exchange ideas

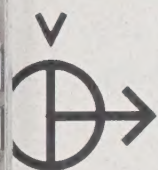
Group session

- Bliss software
- Bliss program
- Reading and v
- Creating

**To obtain  
inform  
please re  
enclosed qu**



# New



## camp

6, 1992

Florida

w developments.

and experiences.

s will include:

or IBM and Mac

n the TouchTalker

iting Bliss stories

Bliss displays

## Additional

## tion,

## er to the

## stionnaire.

# Blissymbolics: A Living Language

This is a twenty minute video tape demonstrating the benefits of Blissymbolics as an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) system.

The emphasis is on its language capabilities for representing grammatical concepts as well as vocabulary items.

Teaching methods for enhancing literacy and communication skills are demonstrated. Examples are given of technology which uses Blissymbols. Special features focusing on indicators and the ability to generate new symbols are also demonstrated.

**Blissymbolics: A Living Language** should be a part of every AAC specialist's knowledge base.

It is recommended for pre-service as well as in-service training for all disciplines involved with AAC.

This video gives valuable information to professionals, caregivers, AAC users and their families, and shows how Blissymbols provide a unique language capability that should be considered carefully by each individual when selecting a symbol language.

"Blissymbolics: A Living Language" is available from BCI:

- North American format (NTSC) – \$25.00 Cdn (plus 15% shipping & handling)
- European format (PAL) – \$45.00 (plus 15% shipping & handling)



## StoryBliss

**StoryBliss** (© 1989 BCI) consists of two programs for the Macintosh™ computer — BlissReader and BlissWriter. With BlissReader, a Blissymbol user employs a single switch and scans menus to read stories.

### BlissReader users can:

- select the story of their choice.
- have the story read aloud while the text being read is highlighted.
- repeat favourite passages or illustrations as often as they wish.
- choose the graphic support setting desired (Blissymbols alone, words alone or both words and symbols).

**BlissReader** is available from BCI for \$60.00 Cdn.

**BlissWriter** is a program to be used by instructors and parents to create stories for **BlissReader** with text and Blissymbols. Animation is also possible. Text is typed in and can be 'chunked' into phrases to be associated with Blissymbols. Parts of each chunk (symbols or words) can be hidden independently and repeated independently by the Macintalk™ speech synthesizer. Individual words can also be repeated independently. To include Blissymbols in a story being written with **BlissWriter**, **AccessBliss** is required.

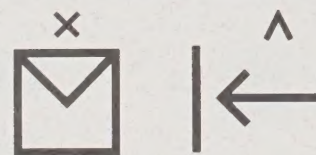
**AccessBliss** is available from BCI for \$250.00 Cdn.

**StoryBliss**, which includes **BlissReader** and **BlissWriter**, is available from BCI for \$100.00 Cdn.





# Correspondence



We want to share this letter with you, our *BlissWorld* readers in the hope that your thinking might turn in two directions. First, there is the challenge of finding ways to help Krzysztof come to the Bliss Camp in Orlando. Second, we hope it will stimulate ideas regarding other Bliss users who would like to come to Bliss Camp. Further information about Bliss Camp can be obtained from BCI.

November 1, 1991

Olga Carstens  
Bein Dorfgaben 10  
D-W2000 Hamburg 56

Mrs. Shirley McNaughton  
Thornhill, Ontario, Canada

Dear Shirley,

You mention in your letter that you are planning a North American Blissymbol camp for Bliss users in May 1992. When I read this, the thought struck me: How wonderful it would be for Krzysztof from Poland to go to that camp!

A crazy thought, I know - yet one day I heard the sentence: "You will never move anything in this world unless you strive for the impossible!" and I think it is deeply true.

I know Krzysztof and his parents since more than two years. His mother attended the second Bliss workshop held in Warsaw in 1989. The boy had already learned to read and write on an electric typewriter which he manages slowly with one finger. Krzysztof never had the chance to attend school. Therefore his mother, a professional teacher, taught him at home. She also taught the boy Blissymbols after her return from Warsaw.

Krzysztof loves Blissymbolics and by now he knows more than 900 Blissymbols. A year ago, the German Quäker-Hilfe bought an Apple computer for him, and now he is full of enthusiasm about his new possibilities.

The boy does not speak at all. He lives in a wheelchair and is in every respect dependent on a person to help him. Krzysztof does not understand English, but when I saw him last, four weeks ago, I was told he begins to learn some English words.

One day, I sent Krzysztof a cutting from *Communicating Together* with the address of a boy from Finland who was looking for a pen-friend. The two boys are now enjoying writing long Bliss letters.

This is my story and I am sure you, Shirley, can understand what it would mean to Krzysztof to go abroad and meet with other Blissymbol users. Do you see any chance to invite him, probably together with his mother, to your camp?

I know, of course, the language is not the only difficulty from their side. They would have to buy a passport and get a visa which is not easy in Poland. And they have not got the money for such a journey plus stay in Florida. Still, the thought is so tempting that I simply felt I have to write to you about it.

Maybe you know about a similar camp for Bliss users somewhere in Europe?

Please let me know what you think about it all.

Thank you.



## !!! Attention !!!

Volunteers are needed for Bliss Camp, May 9 — 16. If you can participate in this worthwhile experience, please contact Katherine Seybold at BCI as soon as possible. Here's your chance to have a great time, to learn more about Bliss and give something back to the Bliss community.









## Bliss Forum

(Continued from page 1.)

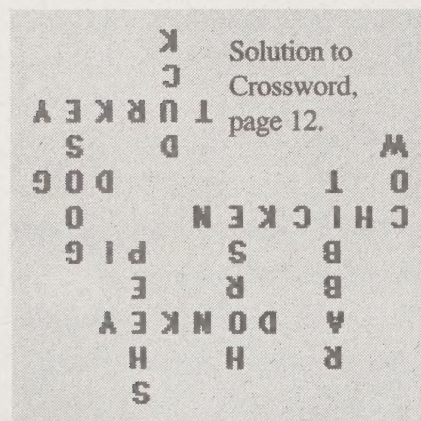
consider which Blissymbols will both maintain the integrity of the system and be most appropriate for our broad range of users.

We would like to have constant vocabulary development going on in this column. We hope a wide range of the Blissymbol-using community will participate in this development.

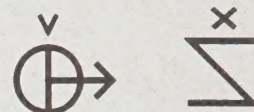
We are planning a major symbol meeting of representatives from the International Panel to be held every three years to determine which new symbols will be presented to the BCI Symbol Committee for formal approval in the Standard Blissymbol Vocabulary.

All Bliss users have the opportunity to help with further system development. We hope many different perspectives will be presented and many new ideas will be generated through our Bliss Forum.

If you have ideas about symbols or about ways to involve more people in future symbol development, please write to *BlissWorld*. ☸



## Ideas for New Blissymbols in the Performing Arts



The following symbols have been suggested for "performance":

performance	performance	performance (your suggestions)
(activity + to give)	(activity + eye + ear) (related to TV)	

Try your favourite symbol for "performance" as the classifier in the following compound symbols. Do your rough work below, then copy your choice for "performance" onto the enclosed insert and send it to us along with your comments.

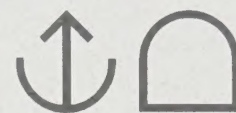
concert	vocal concert	instrumental concert	stage play
performance + music	performance + song	performance + musical instrument	performance + life

opera	ballet (performance)
performance + life + song	performance + toe + dance

comedy	tragedy
performance + happiness	performance + sadness



# Tips for Teaching: Worksheets



Most students who have physical difficulties, including those who have problems with communication, love the activity, fun and sense of accomplishment from doing interesting school work. Even when hand-over-hand or other assistance is required, students still derive a great deal of satisfaction and value from the effort they have put forth.

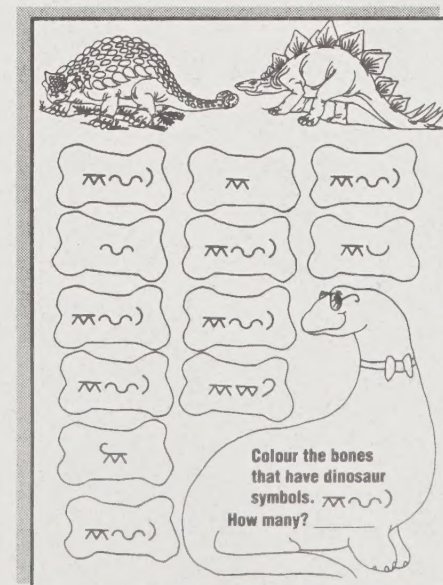
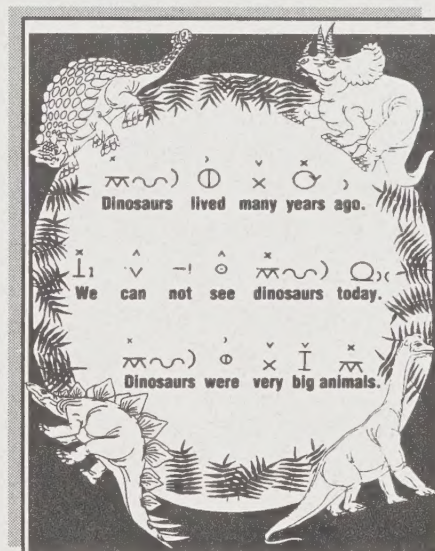
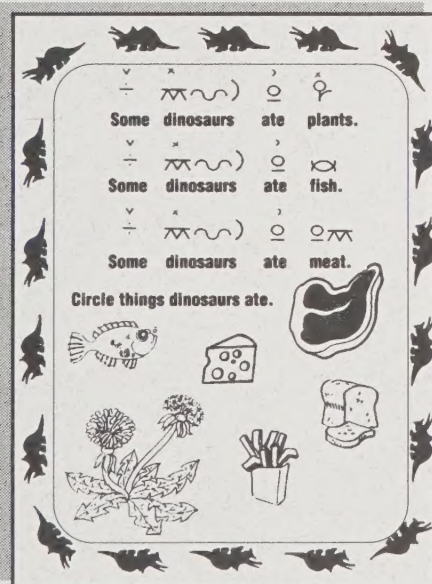
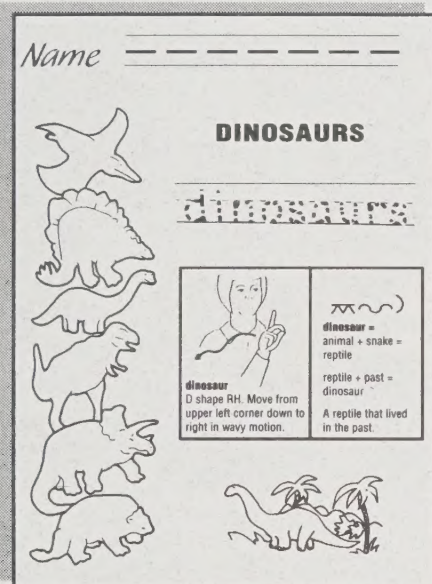
The end product, when proudly carried home, stimulates more interest and promotes new and different opportunities for good communicative interaction with their families and friends. These worksheets are a learning opportunity for them too.

Barbara Rush is a special education teacher and communication resource person for the City of Hamilton Board of Education, Ontario, Canada. Along with other Hamilton teachers, Barbara has produced many types of excellent worksheets over the years.

In working with children with communication problems, Barbara has encouraged the use of a Total Communication Program, accepting and using whatever communicative effort the children offer. Her program incorporates vocalization, gestures and pictures, and teaches Blissymbols, signing, fingerspelling and traditional orthography.

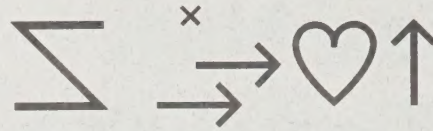
The sample worksheets shown here are for the dinosaur enthusiasts in our midst. The ideas, of course, can be adapted for any theme and may stimulate your own creativity.

Please send us your favourite 'Tips for Teaching' worksheets, with a short note outlining the advantages of each. We will share the best ones as we receive them. You may also want to include a brief biography.





# Bliss Games



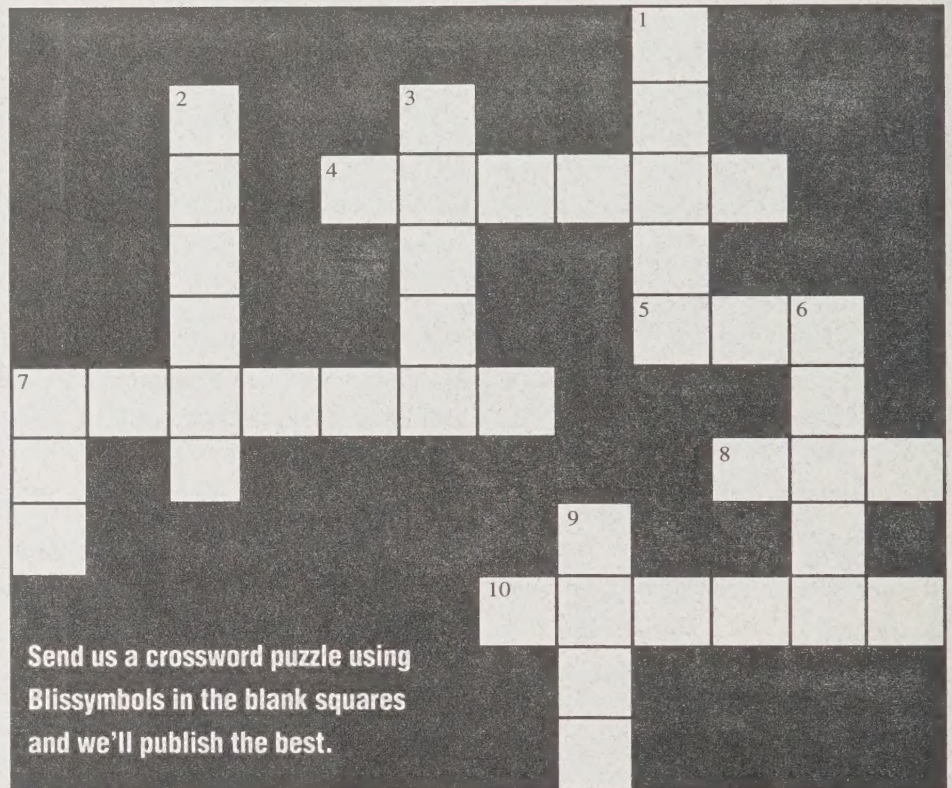
## Crossword Puzzle\*

### Across Clues

4. horse + work: an animal resembling a horse which is commonly used to assist with work
5. animal + pictograph of curly tail
7. bird + food: a bird commonly used for food
8. animal + pictograph of tail
10. bird + food + big: a large bird commonly used for food

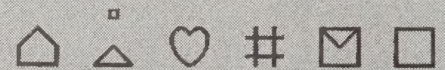
### Down Clues

1. horned animal + cloth
2. rodent + ear
3. animal + pictograph of head and neck
6. water bird + big
7. horned animal + female
9. bird + water

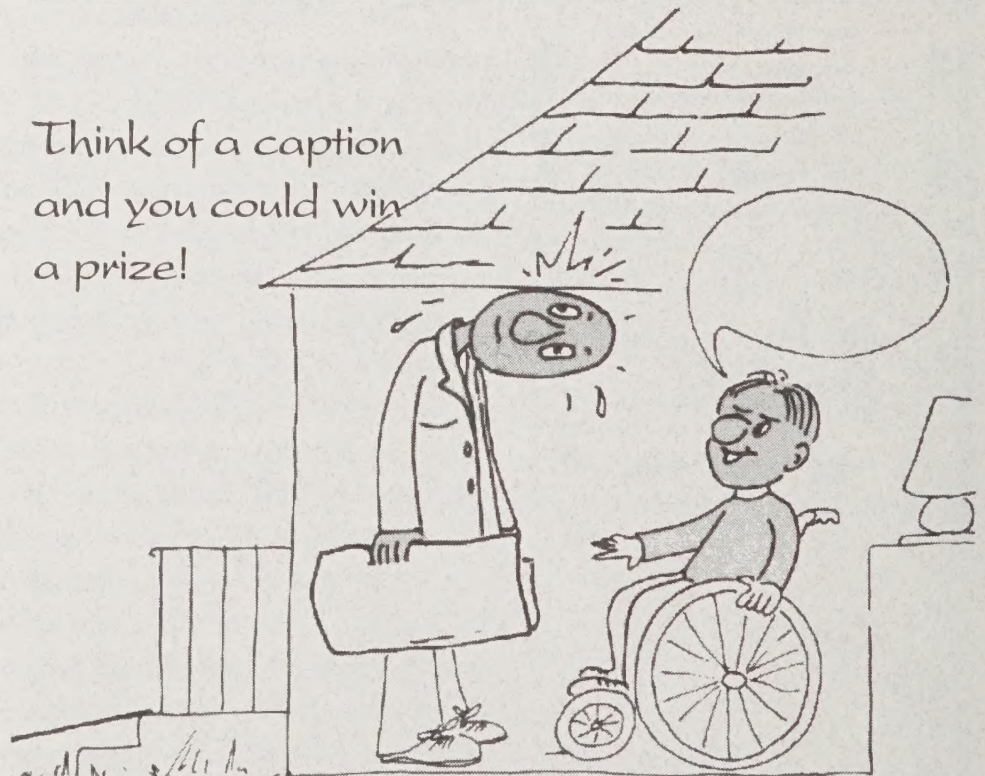


Send us a crossword puzzle using Blissymbols in the blank squares and we'll publish the best.

How many new Blissymbols can you make from different combinations of two or more of these symbols?



Think of a caption and you could win a prize!



\*answers on page 10.

Special thanks to Audrey King for her kind permission to amend and print her cartoon.